

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS COMMENTS - AUGUST 21

USINFO FOR IOP/M

1. MIDDLE EAST. THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS CONTAINS NO
MENTION OF THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA RUNS
AN ARTICLE CONDEMNING ISRAELI "ESCALATION" OF ITS "UNDE-
CLARED WAR" AGAINST LEBANON.

2. U.S. (A) ALL MORNING CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES A TASS
REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN MINNEAPOLIS. THE REPORT
PARAPHRASED SELECTED PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH DEFENDING THE

DETENTE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. REPORT ALSO
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CONTENDS THAT "(THE PRESIDENT) CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENING

OF THE MILITARY MIGHT OF THE U.S. AND AN INCREASE IN THE MILITARY BUDGET." NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE PRESIDENT'S LINK BETWEEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A LARGER DEFENSE BUDGET AND PROGRESS IN SALT. REPORT STATES THAT THE PRESIDENT CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AS A "BATTLE OF IDEOLOGIES" WHICH SHOULD BE FREE TO FIND A SOLUTION IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE FROM OUTSIDE PRESSURE. NO MENTION IS MADE OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SOVIET RELATIONSHIP TO EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. (B) PRAVDA REPORTS THAT MORE THAN 100 DELEGATIONS WILL ATTEND A WORLD CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE TO BE HELD IN CUBA SEPTEMBER 5 THROUGH 7.

3. PORTUGAL. COVERAGE CONTINUES HEAVY WITH STRESS ON CONSTRUCTIVE UNDERTAKINGS BY GONCALVES GOVERNMENT; INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH "DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST REACTION; AND CONDEMNATION OF ANTICOMMUNIST "CRUSADE" IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL. PRAVDA REPORTS PROTEST BY PCP NORTHERN DISTRICT OVER REMOVAL OF NORTHERN REGION ARMED FORCES COMMANDER. IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA PORTRAY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER. IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA PORTRAY STRIKE ON AUGUST 19 AS SUCCESSFUL INDICATOR OF WORKING CLASS

SOLIDARITY, NOTING EFFORTS OF SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP AIMED AT CALLING OFF STRIKE.

4. SEATO. IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY CONTENDS THAT SEATO IS IN STAGE OF DISSOLUTION. THAI AND FILIPINO DEMANDS FOR REASSESSMENT OF MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. ARE CITED AS LAST STRAW BREAKING THE SEATO CAMEL'S BACK. SITUATION IS STILL COMPLICATED, HOWEVER, BY FACT THAT "IMPERIALISTS" NOT WILLING TO VOLUNTARILY LEAVE THE AREA; AND BY "EXPANSIONIST, GREAT POWER POLICIES" OF PEKING.

5. NEPAL. PRAVDA BRIEFLY REPORTS THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW OF A NEPALESE DELEGATION HEADED BY FONMIN ERYAL. NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. STOESSEL

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